From: T Gregory Knox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/27/01 11:59am
Subject: Penalty: Greater Marketshare

To stop a problem, you must begin at the source of the problem and allowing Microsoft (MS) the ability to send in PC's running THEIR software isn't exactly going to punish MS in the way that they were to be tried. The purpose of the court cases...too much marketshare and a monopolistic company. The possible "punishment"...give more people THEIR software. Not only to people that already use PC's and Microsoft's software, but to children. Children that when they grow older, are familiar with the MS operating systems and continue to use them. Hardly affecting MS's monopoly or their funds. To give a verdict, you must look at the consiquences... Punish MS by having MS give schools their software isn't holding them back in anyway from gaining more marketshare and making billions of more dollars. Yes, more money as well because in the proposed verdict, MS will be able to charge the schools a liscencing fee for the software that they gave them. MS wins all around.

What needs to be carried out is a verdict that will drop MS's exposure and allow other operating systems and software companies to emerge. The market is so saturated with PC's and MS's software that many people do not even know of alternatives like Mac OS X or even Linux. By constricting MS's exposure, this will allow these other companies to step forward and present themselves in a respectable manner. Money obviously is no object to MS. So that will not solve the problem. Marketshare certainly isn't an issue with MS, either. They have 95% of the market and loosing a few percentage points certainly will not hurt their income, but will help these other companies trying to make a name for themselves.

If I was one of MS's lawyers, I would be extremely happy right now. (As well as very wealthy.)

Microsoft is looking at this verdict not as a punishment, but as an investment.

Thank you for reading my comments.
T Gregory Knox

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